

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03 PRS-01 VO-03 SCA-01 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 INSE-00 SY-10

FBIE-00 RSR-01 /096 W

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O R 041509Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1656

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10537

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR US UR CT

SUBJ: POTENTIAL REQUEST FOR ASYLUM

1. THIS CABLE IS TO ALERT DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BANGUI TO POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR ASYLUM OR REFUGE BY CULTURAL ATTACHE OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IN MOSCOW, MAURICE YANDOKA. YANDOKA, WITH WIFE AND INFANT, CAME TO EMBASSY MID-DAY SEPTEMBER 4 AND TOLD FOLLOWING STORY.

YANDOKA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS IN CAR EMBASSY HERE. DURING PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S RECENT STAY IN CRIMEA, YANDOKA WAS SUMMONED TO GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIS DUTIES. BOKASSA SAID HE WAS VERY DISPLEASED WITH YANDOKA AND WOULD RETURN HIM TO BANGUI FOR "PUNISHMENT." YANDOKA THEN THREW HIMSELF ON MERCY OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BANGUI, WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING BOKASSA, AND AMBASSADOR DISPATCHED YANDOKA FROM SIMFEROPOL TO MOSCOW IN COMPANY OF TWO SOVIET SECURITY GUARDS. UPON ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW, HOWEVER, SOVIETS TURNED YANDOKA OVER TO CAR "PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS," YANDOKA ESCAPED FROM THEM AND SOUGHT FRENCH EMBASSY HELP OVER WEEKEND. WHEN IT WAS REFUSED, HE CAME TO US EMBASSY TO REQUEST OUR HELP IN GETTING HIM OUT OF USSR AND INTO WESTERN EUROPE OR US.

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3. YANDOKA SAID HE HAD PAID FOR AEROFLOT TICKET TO COPENHAGEN, BUT IS NOW AFRAID TO PICK IT UP FOR FEAR OF ARREST BY SOVIET POLICE. HE CLAIMS HE CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER PLANE TICKET. EMBOFF PROVIDED HIM WITH LIST OF FLIGHTS TO WESTERN EUROPE FOR SEPTEMBER 4 AND 5 AND SUGGESTED THAT HE REQUEST ONE OF WESTERN AIRLINES TO EXCHANGE HIS AEROFLOT TICKET FOR HIM. AT THIS MOMENT HE HAS GONE TO TRY TO DO THIS, LEAVING WIFE AND CHILD IN EMBASTY. IF HE IS UNSUCCESSFUL, WE EXPECT HE MAY ESCALATE TO REQUEST FOR ASYLUM OR TEMPORARY REFUGE. IF HE DOES, WE WILL MAKE FORMAL REPORT TO DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAM, VOLUME II, 227-9. MEANWHILE, ASSUMING HE STILL FEELS HE IS IN DANGER, WE WILL OFFER HIM A FEW HOURS TEMPORARY REFUGE, WHILE EXPLAINING THAT THERE IS NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO FOR HIM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY BANGUI CAN DEVELOP. YANDOKA CARRIES DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT 562/MAE, WHICH LISTS HIM AS BORN MARCH 4, 1939.
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